Smuggling of jute from Bangladesh

860. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that jute from Bangladesh is being smuggled into India on a big scale;

(b) is so, what steps have been taken by Government to check it;

(c) whether it is a fact that jute is being sold at depressed prices; and

(d) what steps have been taken to check the falling prices of jute and to assure support prices to the jute growers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) In order to prevent smuggling of raw jute from Bangladesh into West Bangal, the Director General, Border Security Force (BSF) has been requested to issue necessary directions to the troops deployed in Indo-Bangladesh border to step up their vigil against smuggling.

(c) and (d) A Statement is attached.

Statement

As a result of huge carry-over stock of raw jute from the previous season, raw jute market continues to be depressed. However, Jute Corporation of India, with a view to protect the interests of jute growers, undertakes to purchase whatever quantity of raw jute is offered to it by jute growers at the minimum statutory price fixed by the Government. The following steps have been taken in the interests of jute growers:—

(i) Statutory minimum prices of raw jute were announced in March, 1986 i.e. before the sowing season for the first time;

(ii) JCI and Cooperatives, acting as agents of JCI, are operating through a large number of purchase centres as in the previous season;

(iii) JCI is giving wide publicity to its support operations and advising growers not to make any distress sale of raw jute to middlemen below statutory minimum price;

(iv) A buffer stock scheme of raw jute is also in operation, so as to bring stability in raw jute prices in the interests of growers as well as user industry.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

I. The Cine-workers and Cinema Theatre Workers (Regulation of Employment) Amendment Rules, 1986.

II. The Employees. Deposit Linked Insurance (Amendment) Scheme 1986.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:—

I. A copy (in English and Hind) of the Ministry of Labour Notification G.S.R. No. 284, dated the 12th April, 1986, publishing the Cine workers and Cinema Theatre Workers (Regulations of Employment) Amendment Rules, 1986, under subsection (3) of section 23 of the Cine-workers and Cinema Theatre Workers (Regulation of Employment) Act, 1981, together with statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the notification. [Placed in Library. See No. LT.

II. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Labour Notification G.S.R. No. 873, dated the 11th October, 1986, publishing the Employees Deposit Linked Insurance (Amendment) Scheme, 1986, under